



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 161

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2015

No. 5

## Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father in Heaven, You know our thoughts from afar. Teach us how to live to honor Your Name. Rule in our lives, injecting our intentions with such purity that even our motives can withstand Your scrutiny.

Have Your way on Capitol Hill, surrounding our Senators with Your power and love. Deliver them from fear and uncertainty as You inspire them to stay within the circle of Your will. Lord, bless and consecrate their labors today, and use them to serve the common good as You strengthen them during the hour of temptation.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today the Senate will debate the motion to proceed to S. 1, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, with the time equally divided until 5:30 p.m. At 5:30 p.m. we will have a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to this bipar-

tisan jobs and infrastructure bill. If all time is used the Senate will begin consideration of the bill at midnight tomorrow night. Once cloture has been invoked, it is my hope that Chairman MURKOWSKI can work with Senator CANTWELL to yield back time, get on the bill during the day tomorrow, and begin to process amendments under the regular order.

The Senate will be out of session on Wednesday and Thursday of this week to accommodate our respective conference retreats. We will return for consideration of the Keystone bill on Friday, and Senators should be working with the bill managers to get their amendments in the queue.

### TERRORIST ATTACKS IN PARIS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about what has been happening in Paris. We have seen remarkable displays of support for the French people. Out of terrible darkness, we have seen defiant recommitments to the ideals of free expression, and the French people should know that the Senate stands in solidarity with them as they work to recover from such awful terrorist attacks. They should also be assured that we are prepared to cooperate in whatever appropriate way we can.

### KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, last week the House of Representatives voted on a bipartisan basis to pass a Keystone jobs and infrastructure bill. Meanwhile, the Senate energy committee got the process moving in this Chamber as it debated and approved a bipartisan Keystone measure as well. The committee consideration allows Senators from both parties to offer amendments and make their voices heard. It is the kind of serious legislating many Senators have been waiting a long time to see. It is the latest

example of Congress getting back to work under a new Republican majority.

Later this afternoon we will consider a cloture motion that will allow us to proceed to a similarly open debate here on the Senate floor. I know Senators from both sides are hungry for a real Senate debate. I know they want to offer amendments. I know they are anxious to finally have their voices and the voices of the people they represent heard here on the Senate floor. I expect the cloture motion to pass on a bipartisan basis.

Of course, we originally hoped to start this process last Thursday. We wanted to spend Friday working on this bipartisan jobs bill, but the Senate lost that opportunity when some colleagues across the aisle objected to beginning the debate.

Now, moving forward, what I would urge is for our Democratic friends to work with us as the new Republican majority continues to bring more openness to the Senate. The changes we are making are ones that many Democrats have indicated they want to see as well. The reforms we are implementing will give a real voice to constituents represented by Democratic Senators. We need to work together to ensure positive change takes hold. I am hopeful that will happen.

Here is one consequence of that delay I mentioned. The Nebraska Supreme Court has since eliminated what has to be the last conceivable pretext to veto the Keystone jobs bill, so we will be starting the Senate's debate at a time when the rationale for building this pipeline has almost never been more obvious.

I know the American people would welcome a change in posture from the President. I know supporters in both parties are determined to get a bipartisan jobs and infrastructure bill to his desk as soon as possible. We will take the next step in the process at 5:30 p.m. today, and then we will have an open floor debate on jobs, the middle class,

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S133